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27 July 1948

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NOTE: [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: You asked for my reactions to your Caribbean Air Power paper.  
These is them.

As it is written, I don't think this would do much for the public but bewilder it. It may be a mere reflection of my personal ignorance, but the mere information that Cuba, Haiti, Venezuela, Guatemala, and Costa Rica are in opposition to Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic, and Honduras (while El Salvador whatever that is maintains difficult neutrality) would come, I should think, as a distinct surprise to 99 $\frac{1}{2}$  out of each 100 readers. The allegation that in this area the "dictatorships" are embattled against the "democracies" might well alarm the innocent reader while he secretly wondered which was which.

What I should visualize instead of this paper would be a treatment in which, after a polite bow to the obvious US interest in Caribbean stability, the banana alignments and reasons therefor would be explained. That might and might not make a fairly comprehensive study. Then, if you wanted to bring in this matter of Mr. Trujillo's air power--strictly in relation to the power blocs and subordinate to them--you might do so.

To assume, as the paper does, a prior knowledge of international politics in the area, and then to dwell on the fact that one country just got a shipment of five mosquitoes, is on the one hand to engage in unwarranted flattery and on the other to baffle a majority who think of the Dominican Republic as  $\frac{1}{2}$  an island which could have the world's largest and mostpowerful air fleet without making the slightest difference to anybody.

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